

## BRIEFS

CARY, N.C. (BP)—A new Baptist Immigrant Services ministry being gradually launched by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) will set up a yet-unspecified number of immigration ministry centers across the state. The first center is being established in Lincolnton. Churches and associations will be encouraged to establish a variety of ministry efforts to engage immigrants with the Gospel. In addition, the ministry centers will be staffed by individuals trained and qualified to help immigrants understand their rights and immigration options. The 2015 BSCNC annual meeting adopted a resolution that described immigrants as "a divine opportunity."

## ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ TO HAVE CANCER SURGERY

**RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)** — Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of the late Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham and founder, president of AnGel Ministries in Raleigh, N.C., disclosed Sept. 4 that she will have surgery for breast cancer and is seeking prayers for healing that would glorify God. "Each day since the diagnosis, God has given me promises and encouragement from His Word," Lotz said at AnneGrahamLotz.org. The New York Times named Lotz one of the five most influential evangelists of her generation. She speaks internationally and is a best-selling, award-winning author of several books.

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SET ACADEMIC COMPETITION

MIRAMAR, Fla. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools (SBACS) has announced it will begin an online-based academic competition, Knowledge Quest, for its member schools next spring. Students from third grade through 12th grade can compete with other schools without having to travel by utilizing test modules in individual core subjects, electives, and Bible knowledge, said Wesley Scott, SBACS executive director of SBACS. For more information, visit [www.sbacs.org](http://www.sbacs.org).

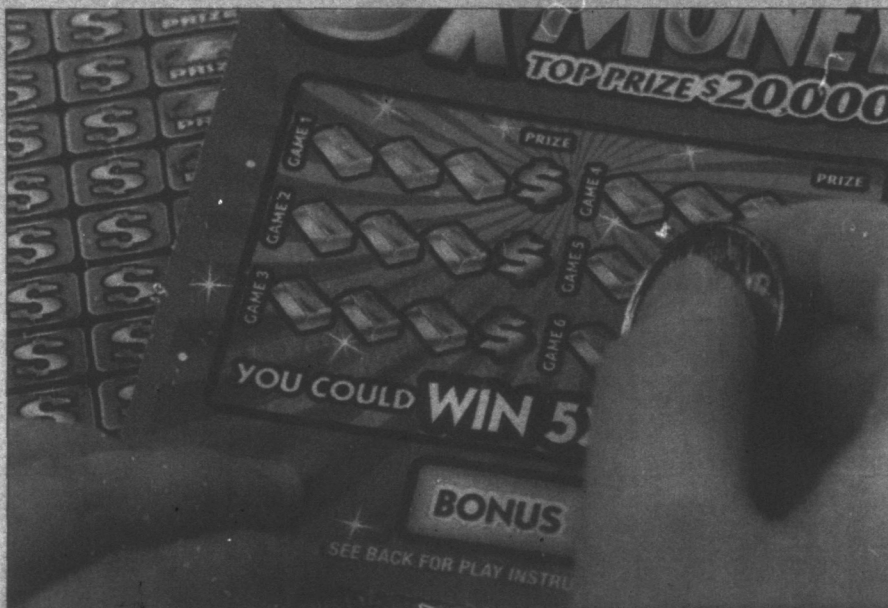


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# Vote switchers made difference

## Lottery bill passes after second vote

the Mississippi Legislature failed Aug. 23 during the special session he called to address transportation needs unmet in the regular legislative session earlier this year.

After wrangling between the two legislative

**By William H. Perkins**  
**Editor**

Anti-lottery campaigners, many of them Mississippi Baptists, cheered as Governor Phil Bryant's bid to get his state lottery bill through

the Mississippi Legislature failed Aug. 23 during the special session he called to address transportation needs unmet in the regular legislative session earlier this year.

After wrangling between the two legislative chambers produced a compromise lottery bill that the Senate quickly approved, the House of Representatives subsequently voted to kill Senate Bill 2001, as it was styled.

However, the joy felt by lottery opponents, most of whom were uninitiated in the ways of

see LOTTERY on p. 6

## Disaster relief volunteers hard at work



**CLEARING UP** - Tony Abels (left), member of First Church, Madison, and Billy Henderson, member of Brandon Church, Brandon, work to remove fallen trees as part of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit response to tornadoic activity that moved through Madison County in late August. Mississippi Baptist disaster relief personnel are shifting to a different mode and closely monitoring multiple developing hurricanes in the Caribbean and Atlantic areas as Hurricane Florence takes aim at the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. (Photo by Shane McGivney)

## Ky. Baptist university cuts tuition by over half

**WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. (BP)** — Tuition rates will be cut 57% at Baptist-affiliated University of the Cumberlands in Williamsville, Ky., for the 2018-2019 academic year under a plan known as 'The Cumberlands Commitment.'

"We are making this change because we are committed to putting our students and families first by addressing the most significant hurdle to a college education — affordability," said Cumberland's President Larry L. Cockrum. "We want all students to know that with Cumberlands there is a clear and affordable path to a college degree."

Cockrum made the announcement to Cumberland's students, faculty, and staff on Sept. 4.

On-campus undergraduate tuition will be reduced from \$23,000 per year to \$9,875 per year at the university affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The tuition decrease means the total annual cost for undergrads will drop from \$32,000 to \$19,175 per year. The school said it will continue to maintain a scholarship

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# From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

## Lottery Hall of Shame

Legislators ignored the dark underbelly of a state lottery when they caved to intense pressure from our Gambling Governor Phil Bryant and approved the pernicious game of chance on Aug. 24. The "yea" votes should be ashamed of themselves for allowing Mississippi state government to further swindle our poorest citizens out of money desperately needed by their families, under the shabby pretense of "Nobody has to buy a ticket." Thus their names are listed below in an informal Hall of Shame for the dishonor they

have brought upon our beloved state. To the steadfast legislators who twice voted against the lottery, our gratitude goes to you for resisting the pressure that got the bill passed on a second vote. In the tables below, a "Yea" signifies a vote in favor of the lottery. A "Nay" is a vote against the lottery. In the House of Representatives table, the "Failed" heading refers to the first vote on Aug. 23 when the lottery bill failed. The "Passed" column signifies the second vote on Aug. 24, with the vote flippers noted who allowed the bill to pass ("Charge").

### Senate

Name	Residence	Dist.	Party	23 vote
Barnett, Juan	Heidelberg	34	Dem	Yea
Blackmon, Barbara	Canton	21	Dem	Yea
Blackmon, Kevin	Southaven	19	Rep	Yea
Bourne, David	Jackson	29	Dem	Nay
Brenning, Jennifer	Philadelphia	18	Rep	Nay
Brown, Nicky	Pontotoc	3	Rep	Nay
Bryan, Bob	Amory	3	Dem	Nay
Burton, Terry	Newport	31	Rep	Yea
Butter, Albert	Port Gibson	26	Dem	Yea
Carmichael, Videt	Meridian	33	Rep	Nay
Carroll, Jr., Joe	Gulfport	48	Rep	Yea
Chapman, Chris	Meridenhall	48	Rep	Yea
Chapman, Lydia	Winona	14	Rep	Yea
Clarke, Buck	Hollandale	22	Rep	Yea
Dawkins, Deborah	Pass Christian	48	Dem	Nay
Debar Jr., Dennis	Laskeyville	37	Rep	Yea
Dearing, Bob	Natchez	37	Dem	Yea
Doty, Sally	Brookhaven	39	Rep	Yea
Falingane, Joey	Sumrall	41	Rep	Nay
Frazier, William	Jackson	50	Dem	Nay
Gilbert, Tommy	Biloxi	50	Rep	Yea
Harkins, Josh	Flowood	20	Rep	Yea
Hill, Angela Burks	Picayune	40	Rep	Yea
Hopson III, Briggs	Vicksburg	23	Rep	Yea
Horn, John	Jackson	23	Dem	Yea
Hudson, Billy	Hattiesburg	45	Rep	Nay
Jackson, Gary	French Camp	15	Rep	Nay
Jackson, Robert	Marks	32	Dem	No vote
Campton II, Jackson	Pasadena	32	Dem	No vote
Jolly, Russell	Houston	8	Dem	No vote
Jordan, David	Greenwood	24	Dem	Absent
Kirby, Dean	Pearl	30	Rep	Yea
Massay, Chris	Reid	1	Rep	Nay
McDaniel, Chris	Ellisville	42	Rep	Nay
McMahan, Chad	Guntown	6	Rep	Nay
Michel, Walter	Ridgeland	25	Rep	Yea
Moran, Phil	Kin	46	Rep	Yea
Norwood, Scilla	Jackson	2	Dem	Nay
Parker, David	Olive Branch	2	Rep	Nay
Parks, Ross Potts	Corinth	4	Rep	Nay
Polk, John	Hattiesburg	44	Rep	Nay
Symour, Mike	Vandegys	47	Rep	Yea
Simmons, Derrick	Greenville	12	Dem	No vote
Simmons, Willie	Cleveland	13	Dem	Yea
Tollison, Gray	Oxford	9	Rep	Yea
Turner Ford, Angela	West Point	16	Dem	Yea
Watson, Michael	Pascagoula	51	Rep	Yea
Whaley, Neil	Potts Camp	10	Rep	Yea
Wiggins, Bruce	Pascagoula	52	Rep	Yea
Wilmon Jr., J.P.	Belmont	5	Dem	Nay
Witherspoon, Tammy	Magnolia	38	Dem	Yea
Younger, Chuck	Columbus	17	Rep	Yea

### House

Name	Residence	Dist.	Party	Failed	Passed	Change
Aguirre, Shane	Tupelo	17	Rep	Yea	Yea	
Anderson, Jeremy	Escatawpa	110	Dem	Yea	Yea	Yea - Nay
Arnold, Tracy	Booneville	3	Rep	Nay	Nay	
Bailey, Willie	Greenville	49	Dem	Nay	Nay	
Bain, Nick	Corinth	74	Dem	Nay	Nay	
Baker, Mark	Brandon	74	Rep	Yea	Yea	
Banks, Earle	Jackson	67	Dem	Yea	Yea	
Baria, David	Bay St. Louis	122	Dem	Nay	Nay	
Barnes, Sonya W	Gulfport	119	Dem	Nay	Nay	
Barnett, Shane	Vicksburg	38	Rep	Yea	Yea	
Barton, Manly	Moss Point	109	Rep	Yea	Yea	
Beckett, Jim	Bruce	23	Rep	Nay	Nay	
Self, Christopher	Jackson	65	Dem	Nay	Nay	
Self, Donnie	Fulton	65	Rep	Nay	Nay	
Bennett, Richard	Long Beach	120	Rep	Yea	Yea	
Blackmon Jr., Ed	Canton	57	Dem	Nay	Yea	Nay - Yea
Bongar, Joel	Madison	66	Rep	Nay	Nay	
Sounds, Scott	Philadelphia	44	Rep	Nay	Nay	
Joyd, Randy	Wentzville	44	Rep	Nay	Nay	
Brown, Chris	Nettleton	20	Rep	Absent	Absent	
Burnett, Cedric	Jurica	9	Dem	Yea	Yea	
Busby, Charles	Pascagoula	11	Rep	Yea	Yea	
Byrd, Larry	Petal	104	Rep	Yea	Nay	Yea - Nay

Calhoun, Credell	68	Dem	Yea	Yea
Carpenter, Bubba	37	Rep	Yea	Yea
Clark, Bryant	47	Dem	Nay	Nay
Clark, Alyce	69	Dem	Yea	Yea
Cokerham, Angela	96	Dem	Yea	Yea
Corley, John Glen	106	Rep	Nay	Nay
Crawford, Carolyn	121	Rep	Yea	Yea
Criswell, Dana	6	Rep	Nay	Nay
Cumie, Becky	92	Rep	Yea	Yea
DeLano, Scott	117	Rep	Yea	Yea
Denny Jr., William	84	Rep	Yea	Yea
Denton, Oscar	55	Dem	Yea	Yea
Dixon, Deborah B	63	Dem	Yea	Yea
Dorch, Jarvis	66	Dem	Nay	Nay
Eubanks, Dan	114	Rep	Absent	Absent
Eura, Casey	118	Rep	Yea	Yea
Evans, Bob	91	Rep	Nay	Nay
Evans, Michael	45	Dem	Yea	Yea
Faulkner, John	5	Dem	Nay	Nay
Ford, Kevin	54	Dem	Nay	Nay
Foster, Robert	28	Rep	Nay	Nay
Gibbs, Debra H	72	Dem	Nay	Nay
Gibbs, Karl	36	Dem	Yea	Yea
Guice, Jeffrey	114	Rep	Yea	Yea
Gunn, Philip	98	Rep	Nay	Nay
Hale, Jeff	24	Rep	Absent	Absent
Haney, Greg	118	Rep	Yea	Yea
Henley, Ashley	40	Rep	Nay	Nay
Hensley, John	50	Dem	Nay	Nay
Holland, Steve	16	Dem	Yea	Yea
Holloway Sr., Gregory	76	Dem	Nay	Yea
Hood, Joey	35	Rep	Nay	Yea
Hopkins, Steve	34	Rep	Nay	Yea
Horn, Kevin	81	Rep	Nay	Nay
Horne, Steve	81	Rep	Nay	Nay
Huddleston, Mac	15	Rep	Nay	Nay
Hudson, A.M.	29	Dem	Nay	Nay
Hughes Jr., J.P.	12	Dem	Nay	Nay
Jackson, Letisha	11	Dem	Nay	Nay
Johnson, Chris	87	Rep	Nay	Nay
Johnson III, Robert	94	Dem	Nay	Yea
Karrim, Kabir	82	Dem	Nay	Yea
Kinkade, Bill	93	Rep	Yea	Yea
Ladner, Timmy	8	Rep	Nay	Nay
Lamar III, Trey	53	Rep	Nay	Nay
Mangold, Vince	13	Rep	Nay	Nay
Massengill, Steve	102	Rep	Yea	Yea
McGee, James	107	Rep	Nay	Yea
McLeod, Doug	105	Rep	Nay	Nay
McNeal, Roun	10	Rep	Nay	Yea
Mattetal, Nolan	10	Rep	Nay	Yea
Mickens, Carl	85	Dem	Resigned	Resigned
Middleton, Chuck	75	Dem	Yea	Yea
Miles, Tom	97	Rep	Nay	Nay
Mims V. Sam	100	Rep	Nay	Nay
Morgan, Ken	98	Dem	Absent	Absent
Morris, David	48	Rep	Nay	Nay
Oliver, Ken	28	Dem	Nay	Nay
Paden, Orlando	115	Rep	Yea	Nay
Patterson, Randall	92	Dem	Nay	Nay
Perkins Sr., Willie	95	Rep	Yea	Yea
Pigott, Bill	59	Rep	Yea	Yea
Powell, Brent	112	Rep	Yea	Yea
Reed, John	43	Dem	Yea	Yea
Reynolds, Tommy	33	Rep	Yea	Yea
Roberson, Rob	14	Rep	Nay	Nay
Rogers, Margaret	61	Rep	Yea	Yea
Rogers, Ray	30	Dem	Nay	Nay
Rosebud, Tracey	76	Rep	Nay	Nay
Rushen, Randy	89	Rep	Yea	Yea
Sanford, Noah	89	Rep	Nay	Nay
Scoggins, Donnie	80	Dem	Absent	Absent
Scott, Omeria	80	Dem	Nay	Nay
Sparks, Fred	84	Rep	Nay	Nay
Shirley, William	38	Rep	Nay	Nay
Smith, Jeff	38	Rep	Nay	Nay
Snowden, Greg	83	Rep	Nay	Nay
Staples, Gary	88	Rep	Nay	Nay
Steverson, Jody	51	Dem	Nay	Nay
Straughter, Rufus	22	Dem	Nay	Nay
Sullivan, Preston	38	Dem	Nay	Nay
Sykes, Kathy	28	Dem	Yea	Yea
Taylor, Charles	30	Dem	Resigned	Resigned
Thomas, Sara R.	101	Rep	Nay	Nay
Touchstone, Brad	79	Rep	Nay	Nay
Tullos, Mark	18	Rep	Nay	Nay
Turner, Jerry	77	Rep	Nay	Nay
Walker, Kenneth	103	Dem	Yea	Yea
Wallace, Price	62	Rep	Absent	Absent
Watson, Percy	48	Rep	Yea	Yea
Weatherby, Tom	108	Rep	Yea	Yea
White, Jason	95	Rep	Yea	Yea
Wilkes, Stacy H	73	Rep	Nay	Yea
Willis, Patricia	73	Rep	Nay	Yea
Wilson, Cory	27	Dem	Nay	Nay
Wooten, Adrienne	82	Dem	Nay	Absent
Young Jr., Charles	113	Rep	Yea	Yea
Zuber III, Hank				

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VOLUME 142 • NUMBER 36 • ISSN 0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$11.99 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



# Women assuming lead roles in So. Baptist life

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP and local reports)** — Just as Jesus affirmed first-century women, calling them to confess Him as Lord and tell the good news of the Gospel, He continues to call women in the 21st century to communicate His story to the world.

Many women communicators today are answering that call, serving in denominational "seats of influence," a term Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear used in his post-election press conference during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting earlier this summer in Dallas.

## Women leaders

From a national entity to a children's home, and from a state newspaper to a seminary campus, four women — Carol Pipes of LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC in Nashville; Stella Prather of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries in Little Rock; Jennifer Rash of The Alabama Baptist in Birmingham; and Amy Whitfield of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. — are among numerous women in key Southern Baptist communications roles.

For about three-quarters of a century collectively, these four women have made their mark on Southern Baptist communications, living out their communications callings as they craft messages, make decisions, lead staffs, plan strategically, develop budgets, mentor colleagues, manage crises, and more.

In today's technological world where every person with a laptop computer or smartphone is, in effect, a communicator, strategic denominational communications takes on an even greater urgency.

"Quality communication is paramount in today's world as we seek to cut through the noise and connect with those inside and outside of our denomination," said Pipes, LifeWay's director of corporate communications who also is president-elect of the Evangelical Press Association.

"Effective communication is key to strengthening partnerships, connecting mission to ministry, building life-changing relationships and inviting people into a transformational faith journey," she said.

## Rash: Be effective

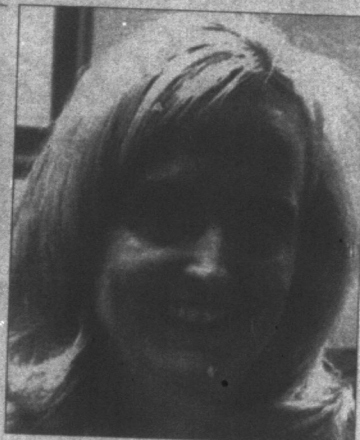
Southern Baptist polity and cooperation make effective communication a non-negotiable, said Rash, editor-elect of The Alabama Baptist and a former president of the Baptist Communicators Association.

"With Southern Baptist polity of local church autonomy merged with cooperative efforts to partner in large-scale efforts added to the mix, effective communication is truly the only way to survive long-term."

"Effective communication cuts down on confusion, keeps the members appropriately informed in a timely manner and allows for enhanced opportunities to resource the members toward our ultimate goals as Southern Baptists — to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves."



RASH



PRATHER



WHITFIELD

## Whitfield: Seek inspiration

All along the way, today's female communications leaders find inspiration through the women who come to life on the pages of the New Testament: Martha, Mary Magdalene, and the Samaritan woman.

Martha's "bold proclamation" of Jesus as Messiah "profoundly affected" Whitfield, director of communications at Southeastern Seminary who co-hosts the SBC This Week podcast.

"While Martha is often most known for her interaction with Jesus about following her sister's example of 'choosing the good part,' I am most moved that she went on to become the only woman documented in Scripture to confess Christ as Messiah in John 11," Whitfield said. "In her greatest moment of grief after losing her brother, she showed tremendous faith in a bold proclamation."

Whitfield, coauthor of a recently published book, *SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference*, and an assistant parliamentarian at recent SBC annual meetings, acknowledges that there are times when she is the only woman in the room for a meeting or event, "but I have been fortunate to be encouraged and affirmed in my participation," she said, just as Jesus encouraged and affirmed women in His days on earth.

Saying she is inspired by Jesus' resurrection, Rash said, "I love the passage

## PIPES

in John where the resurrected Jesus called on Mary Magdalene to go and communicate His resurrection message. It provides clarity for me that Jesus saw women just as capable as men to share the Gospel.

"As far as we can tell, Jesus did not look around for a man first but purposefully picked Mary Magdalene to be the initial person to get the privilege of sharing His important message."

## Prather: Make a Difference

Another woman to share Jesus' message was an anonymous, despised woman known in Scripture as the Samaritan woman. After meeting Jesus, the Samaritan woman went back into town to tell the people, including men, about her encounter with Jesus in John 4.

"Many... believed in Him because of the woman's testimony," said Prather, director of communications for Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries and also a former Baptist Communicators Association president.

"The Lord used her story to make a difference. I believe He too can use the stories and communication I am privileged to tell," she said.

Although every ministry comes with its share of challenges, women serving as denominational communications

leaders find their greatest fulfillment in living out their callings faithfully, the four women said.

Sometimes that commitment to the call might include the unexpected. "I still remember a mentor, a boss who 'took out the trash.' It wasn't that person's job, but it needed to be done," Prather said.

Both large and small tasks are a part of the mix of serving in a Christian context, Whitfield noted. "Be willing to accept small tasks as part of the team and to accept big tasks as a way to expand your gifts," she said.

Through the years, Rash has learned, "If you are truly sensing God's calling, then stay focused on Him and the work He has for you to do."

"It isn't always easy, but I am driven by the opportunity and challenge to help believers in Christ learn from each other — to sharpen each other, as Scripture says — while also sharing calmly and clearly so we can attempt to be the best versions of the people God made us to be," Rash said. Grateful that she has "truly felt support, love, and empowerment through most of my career and faith journey," Rash finds fulfillment as she helps "resource and empower the staff of The Alabama Baptist."

## Pipes: Be thankful for co-workers

Pipes, too, is grateful for those who serve alongside her in Christian communications, saying, "My colleagues at LifeWay inspire me to bring my best every day."

Years ago, when Pipes served with World Changers the summer before college graduation, she first sensed God calling her to serve Him through communications. "I realized I loved writing for and about the church. I especially love sharing stories of how God is working in and through the lives of His people."

"What an honorable task we have to be communicators for our convention."

## Working for the 'King of Kings'

Prather and Rash learned the importance of such mutual support, encouragement, and sharpening soon after college graduation, when the two met as each served on the mission field — Rash, then serving with the International Mission Board in a communications-related role, and Prather, serving with the then-Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) in college student and resort ministry.

After her mission work, Prather landed an opportunity in public relations with the Florida Baptist Convention in Jacksonville. Her passion for storytelling, honed during her denominational missions experience, has intensified through the years.

"I tell people all the time that I have the best job in Arkansas because I have the privilege of telling the story of how Arkansas Baptists are making a difference in the lives of children and families in crisis," said Prather, the mother of two boys.

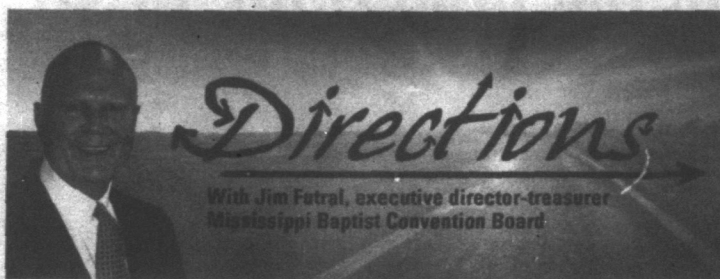
"We work for the King of kings. Our communication in telling His story should be of utmost importance," she said.

I was walking through the grocery store picking up a few items I was assigned to get. As I was putting them in the buggy, I noticed one of the items had an expiration date. It wasn't past the date, but it was getting close to the time when the date would run out. It was one of those "best used by" dates or "best sold by" dates. As I walked on through the store, I noticed that not everything but a lot of products have an expiration date. Milk, crackers, packaged turkey all have dates indicating its time of usefulness will eventually run out.

I didn't start looking for a mirror but I thought, "Do I have one of those expiration dates on me, a 'best used by' stamped on my forehead or tattooed on my arm? We probably have one somewhere. We just don't see it. The fact is all of us can fool around in life, wasting precious time and ignoring opportunities until it is too late to do anything about them and the expiration date is crossed and life is over.

It is for sure we actually do have a time frame in which God wants to use us, bless us, and touch others through us, and there is a "best used by" date about which we need to be aware. Of course, all of us need to face the reality that today could be the last day of our earthly lives and thus we should use it wisely by being good stewards of what opportunities God has given us to do this very day. I can tell you this: whether you realize it or not, there are some things in life that have an expiration date on them. Just for our thought process, let me give you three.

**One is childrearing.** Raising kids doesn't start just because school has started back or they've gotten to high school. You have a small window of opportunities to touch your child and help him or her look to the Lord. It will not happen just through lectures you give them. It will not happen simply because you take them to church occasionally. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." No doubt, day by day by the regularity of helping, instructing, encouraging, disciplining, loving your child can take its toll on the parenting process. As parents grow older, they sometimes suddenly realize the opportunities to influence their children are about to be gone.



## Your Expiration Date

When the Proverbs tell us to train up a child, it's talking more about the totality of life than about some instructional process by which you dump endless information on your child. Beyond anything of which a parent would be aware, children are looking at how you process life and learning from you as they see you dealing with issues or people or each other. They're getting messages you oftentimes don't even know you're sending. The day will come when those lessons will be a memory out of which your children will either react or function, realizing that what you passed on to them has worth and value.

Of course, the same fact is true when you care for other children in your circle of influence, whether grandchildren or cousins or nieces or nephews. We can make a difference in their lives, too, if we live with an awareness of care and love and encouragement toward them. When it comes to raising kids, there's a short period of time to influence them for the Lord. Don't miss that opportunity and suddenly wake up one day to realize that crucial expiration date has run out and they're off to wherever they're going in life, whether it's on to college or career, and you've missed the moments you could have spent with them showing love and helping launch them into the rest of their lives.

**Another expiration date that seems to be in the Scripture has to do with climate change.** I'm not talking about the climate change we hear on the news and how scientists think the earth is warming or cooling or whatever.

I'm talking about the climate around you and me. Ponder that thought. The climate that exists around us can be affected and you and I can make a difference in it. Of what am I speaking? Look at what Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:23-24. You bring your gift to the altar, "and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift, and there remember that your brother hath ought against thee."

Then, listen to this remarkable word that follows. Jesus said, "Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison" (Matt. 5:25). Jesus is instructing us about changing the climate around us while there is still time, because it can escalate and spiral out of control to the point there is nothing we can do about it. So, He said, agree with your adversary quickly. Do what you can to take an explosive situation and make it into a positive experience if you can.

It seems as though in our culture today that when people find an explosive issue, their first impulse is to add fuel and make it explode even bigger. Time and again that seems to be the approach and it is not what Jesus would have us to do. The harsh words are followed by even more emotional and heightened expressions. Rather than helping solve problems, we explode problems. The

fact is that there is a window of opportunity when there are difficulties and problems that come up and maybe even disagreements between people, that something positive can be done. It doesn't mean you can solve every issue. It doesn't even mean you can agree on every point that's expressed, but you don't have to escalate the issue. You can de-escalate the rhetoric and heated emotions — some of the hatred, even — and use a small window of opportunity to change the climate.

Jesus instructs us to do it quickly, to make things right, better, or good, before it is too late and there is nothing left that can be done. How many marriages would be saved if those verses were put into effect in the relationship? How many friendships would be secured, blessed, and continued to be a joy if we just simply did what Jesus told us to do rather than doing what we feel at the moment. How many churches would not be in the chaotic condition in which they are, if when conflict or awkwardness or misunderstandings take place we would act before the expiration date came and went, when it's too late to help change anything and all we have is an explosive mess on our hands.

**One other area that has an expiration date is what I would simply describe as "conclusion securing."** I'm talking about the end of life, when eternity is ahead. There comes a day when all the opportunities to make things right with each other — but supremely with God — passes by and you have no more opportunities ahead. Repeatedly, Scripture tells us we need to turn to God while there is time. Today is one of those days you can take action, look to Jesus, trust Him as Lord and Savior, and make things right with God. If you die tonight, peace will be in your heart. If it's twenty years until you meet your Maker, peace will still be in your heart. If it's fifty years in the making, fine. Live out your life serving Christ and know the peace that passes all understanding. Life does conclude. There is an expiration date. "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27). You can be ready when that day arrives because you made ready this day.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## Just for the Record



**HOPE CHURCH, NESHOPA ASSOCIATION,** recently held a deacon ordination service for Allen Collins. Shown are Collins, his wife Deborah, and pastor Dennis Duval.



**HARRISVILLE CHURCH, HARRISVILLE,** ordained Grayson Erwin as deacon on Aug. 26. Shown are pastor Cecil Hathorn, Erwin, and his wife Sarah.



**UNION CHURCH, CAESAR,** recently ordained Roger Mason. Chris Lincoln, and Doug Spence as deacons, shown with their wives and pastor Brian Tatum.

### In other Church News:

➤ **First Church, Runnelstown,** will host Karen Peck and New River in concert Sept. 16, 6 p.m. Love offering. Hal Hood, pastor.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

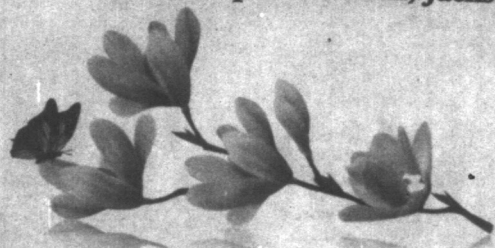
September 13, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

## MINISTRY WIVES CONFERENCE

10.29.18 | First Baptist Church, Jackson



### IF YOU'RE THE WIFE OF A...

- Pastor
- Associate Pastor
- Campus Minister
- Chaplain
- Any minister with our MS Southern Baptist Churches and entities
- Minister of Administration
- Minister of Music
- Missionary
- Youth Minister

... THEN THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR YOU!

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department.  
More information coming soon!

## 2018 YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

# NOW IS THE TIME

DECEMBER 27-28, 2018 • MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE



JASON CURRY  
Speaker



BROKEN VESSELS  
Music



TEDDY DIBIASE  
Speaker

Preregister at [tinyurl.com/2018YEC](http://tinyurl.com/2018YEC) (\$10) or at the door (\$15).  
Contact the Evangelism Dept. at [lbarris@mbcb.org](mailto:lbarris@mbcb.org) for additional info.

## VALUES OF THE MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

- Sharpens our focus on mission needs in Mississippi, and trains leaders to respond evangelistically.
- Adds valuable funding to mission networks and leaders who are prepared to work in Mississippi.
- Encourages churches to become more involved in calling and sending Mississippi missionaries.
- Enlarges our witness in Mississippi by adding new churches. Two million of our neighbors are not actively participating in church.

2018 GOAL: \$2,100,000

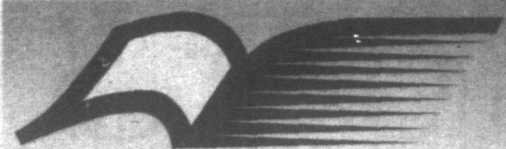
Contact Mission Strategy at 601-292-3231 or e-mail [bbridges@mbcb.org](mailto:bbridges@mbcb.org) for more information.

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

# MISSISSIPPI

Tell this People

MISSISSIPPI



# BAPTISTS

## CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY



SPECIAL GUEST  
AUTHOR:  
Rachel Hauck

REGISTRATION FOR THE  
CLM CONFERENCE IS OPEN!

9.29.18 | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON

REGISTRATION:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2018CLMMadison>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
September 14, 2018

Contact Communication Services at 601-292-3378 or [jchen@mbcb.org](mailto:jchen@mbcb.org)  
for additional information.



EPHESIANS 3:14  
**BROKEN**

SEE YOU AT THE POLE

9.26.18

GLOBAL WEEK OF STRAIGHT PRAYER  
[www.globalweekofstraightprayer.org](http://www.globalweekofstraightprayer.org)

For more information, contact the Discipleship Family Ministry  
Department at 601-292-3284 or e-mail [discipleship@mbcb.org](mailto:discipleship@mbcb.org)

## 2018 COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE



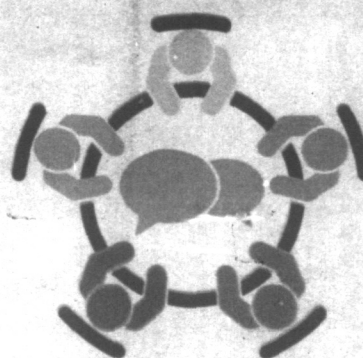
"Seek first His kingdom..."  
Matthew 6:33

# PASSIONATE *Pursuit*

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2018  
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MADISON, MS

For more information, contact Collegiate Ministry at  
601-292-3299 or e-mail [mhopper@mbcb.org](mailto:mhopper@mbcb.org)

## PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



## Bivocational Ministries Meeting

Monday, October 29, 2018

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Skyroom | Baptist Building

Contact Greg Barker at 601-292-3307 for more information.

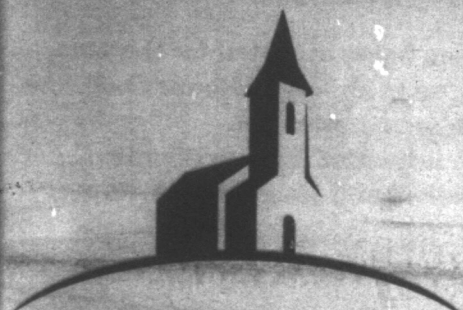


# Transparency

Complying with God's Directives

## 2018 CHURCH-WIDE STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

For more information, contact the Stewardship/Cooperative Program Department at [lleavell@mbcb.org](mailto:lleavell@mbcb.org) or call 601-292-3347.



### Small Church Youth Ministry Workshops

6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.  
Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**  
**Ackerman Baptist Church**  
185 E. Cherry St.  
Ackerman, MS 39735

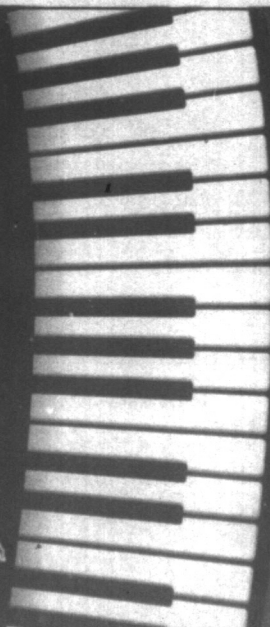
**OCTOBER 25, 2018**  
**Forest Baptist Church**  
439 E. 1st St.  
Forest, MS 39074

**NOVEMBER 6, 2018**  
**First Baptist Church**  
520 W. Fox Ave.  
Eupora, MS 39744

**NOVEMBER 8, 2018**  
**Hillcrest Baptist Church**  
5950 Terry Rd.  
Byram, MS 39272

For questions, contact  
Discipleship & Family Ministry at  
[tpresson@mbcb.org](mailto:tpresson@mbcb.org).  
To register, visit  
[www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch](http://www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch).

## 2019 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST AREA & STATE KEYBOARD FESTIVALS



**JANUARY 24, 2019 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.**

Area 2 ..... Harrisburg BC, Tupelo  
Area 2 ..... FBC, West Point  
Area 3 ..... FBC, Jackson  
Area 4 ..... Fifteenth Avenue BC, Meridian  
Area 5 ..... Main Street BC, Hattiesburg  
Area 5 ..... FBC, Summit  
Area 5 ..... FBC, Pascagoula  
Area 5 ..... FBC, Laurel

**JANUARY 25, 2019 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.**

Area 1 ..... FBC, Senatobia

**JANUARY 26, 2019 | 9:30 A.M.-NOON**

Area 1 ..... Emmanuel BC, Grenada  
Area 1 ..... North Greenwood BC, Greenwood

Contact the Church Music Department at 601-292-3272 or  
e-mail Wyndy South at [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org) for more info.



## Mother/Daughter Weekends

### Living W.I.L.D. Walking in Love Daily at Garaywa

- ☐ **November 2-3, 2018**  
Deadline to Register is October 17
- ☐ **November 9-10, 2018**  
Deadline to Register is October 24

Mother/Daughter Overnights are for moms (and mom substitutes) and their daughters in Grades 1-6.

Schedule: 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$55 per person

For more information, contact the WMU/WM at [tbaldwin@mbcb.org](mailto:tbaldwin@mbcb.org) or call 601-292-3317.



### 2018 Auditions for the 2019 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th Graders involved in the music ministry of Mississippi Southern Baptist Churches

REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE AUDITION!

SEPT. 15, 2018  
10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
FBC, Columbia

SEPT. 16, 2018  
1:30-4:00 p.m.  
FBC, Long Beach

SEPT. 20, 2018  
4:00-7:00 p.m.  
Fairview BC, Columbus

SEPT. 27, 2018  
4:00-7:00 p.m.  
FBC, Meridian

OCT. 13, 2018  
1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Belden BC, Belden

OCT. 14, 2017  
1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Belden BC, Belden

OCT. 20, 2018  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

OCT. 21, 2018  
2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

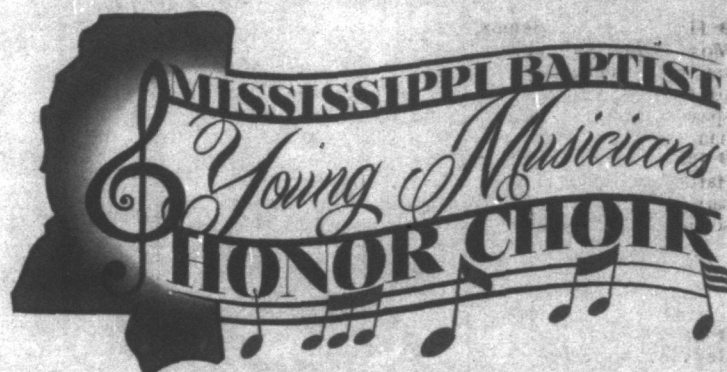
Contact Church Music at [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org) or call 601-292-3267 for more information.



Miss Maya Grace  
11/6/14  
Parents: J & C  
Restricted

Mr. Josiah Putnam  
11/30/03  
Parents: Tracy & Genie  
European Peoples

Miss Abigail Johnson  
11/26/07  
Parents: Lew & Brandi  
Madagascar



April 6-7, 2019

### EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH GRENADA

VIDEO Auditions are being accepted for the 2019 Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir for children in grades 4-6.

Videos should be submitted by e-mail or text. Deadline for submissions is November 15, 2018.

Contact Church Music at 601-292-3272 or Wyndy South at [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org) for additional information.

## Refresh

### MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTERS' FALL RETREAT

October 8-11, 2018 • Orange Beach, AL



**CHIP STEVENS**  
First Baptist Church, Starkville  
Speaker



**CORY CARR**  
Community Church, Oxford  
Worship Leader

Registration: [www.mbc.org/student-ministers-retreat/](http://www.mbc.org/student-ministers-retreat/)  
Contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org) for more information.

To Be Sent October 26, 2018, by the WMU Office

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthdays cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!  
NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.  
FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.  
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

# HOUSE TOPS



## Revivals & Homecomings

► **First Church, Helena, Moss Point:** 60th anniversary homecoming, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.; Walton Douglas, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.

► **Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg:** 135th anniversary homecoming, Sept. 16; service, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; pastor Adam Wade, speaker; Rick Carter, worship leader; Buddy Murphy, accompanist.

► **Salem Church, Learned:** Revival, Sept. 16 - 19; Sun.,

11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; Marcus Peagler, music.

► **Pulaski Church, Pulas-ki:** Revival, Sept. 16 - 19; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Sun., Scott Mangum, speaker; Mon., Clarence Cooper, speaker; Knabb Family, music; Tues., Marty Wilson, speaker; Brenda Guy and Joann Gatewood, music; Wed., Jason Knabb, speaker; Knabb Family, music.

## MS POSITIONS

THE LAUDERDALE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 FOR ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Ones interested may mail resume to P.O. Box 549, Marion, MS 39342.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST OF VICKSBURG IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER. Please email resumes to mbull12@yahoo.com or mail to IBC Personnel Committee at 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RUNNELSTOWN IS SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. All interested candidates please email your resume to pastor@fbrunneltown.com or mail to 9211 Highway 42, Petal, MS 39465.

FIRST BAPTIST OF WINONA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENTS MINISTER. All interested candidates please email your resume to cbone@fbcwinona.org or mail to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 408, Winona, MS 38967, ATTN: Daniel Hill.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR - BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH. Located at Meridian, MS in the Whynot community of Southern Lauderdale County. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

PINE GROVE BAPTIST, LOCATED IN MONROE COUNTY (NETTLETON/AMORY) AREA IS SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please call 901-361-0764.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, OLIVE BRANCH, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please email resume to rcurtis@newprospect.net.

THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR CLARKSON BAPTIST CHURCH IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. God will provide us His choice. If you feel God is leading you to CBC, please submit a resume prior to October 1 to Clarkson Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 5400 Old Hwy 50, Mathiston, MS 39752.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Unity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, MS 39459. Or you may email them to ubc\_resumes@yahoo.com. Either should be designated as Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

CAREY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH MT. PLEASANT, MS IS SEEKING A STUDENT MINISTER. Please email resume to cma10ne7722@att.net. Or mail to Carey Chapel Baptist Church, 170 Carey Chapel RD, Red Banks, MS 38861.

## CLASSIFIEDS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOLEY, ALABAMA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to Sharon Collins at scollins@fbcfoley.com or P.O. Box 307 Foley, AL 36536.

YORK TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR TO LEAD THE CHURCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL. An energetic worker who inspires the Church to serve alongside. Relevant ministerial experience preferred. Send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, York Terrace Baptist Church, 1401 E. 30th Street, Sheffield, Alabama 35660.

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AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach, www.gulfshorescondos.com, 251-656-4935, 205-556-0368, 251-752-2366.

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CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES: Davis Upholstery, Gultman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4808 or bennymhornsby.com

# Hindu meeting in Chicago accused of dark underside

CHICAGO (BP) — An international Hindu confab last week in Chicago that organizers describe as a unity initiative included radical and violent Hindu nationalists, International Christian Concern (ICC) has charged.

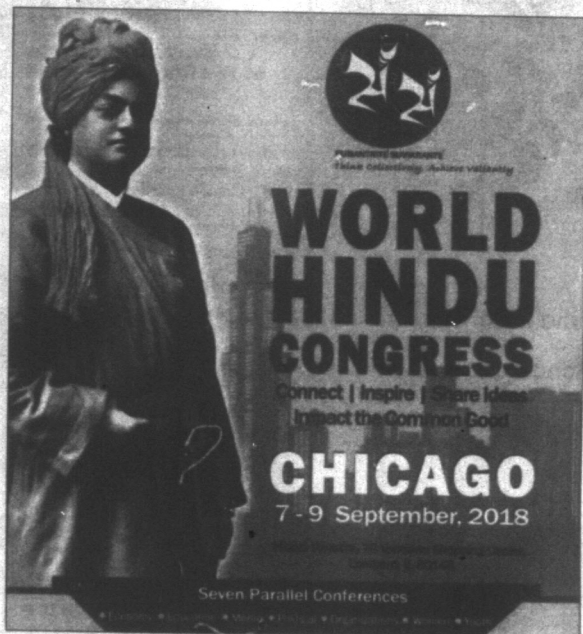
The second World Hindu Congress on Sept. 7-9 was meant to encourage the use of Hindu philosophy, according to event organizers, and to address issues of politics, education, and commerce affecting the Hindu diaspora.

Organizers included the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) of America, classified by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as a "militant religious outfit" that, according to ICC, has defended and promoted attacks on religious minorities in India including Christians, Muslims, and socially-disparaged Dalits.

"Many who will be participating in the event have extensive track records of calling for violence and discrimination against religious minorities," ICC said in the press release distributed Sept. 5 prior to the Congress.

The event presents a misleading image of a harmonious and diverse collection of speakers who will tackle issues that span the cultural and governmental fabric of India. However, there is a much more sinister reality at play behind the scenes of the event.

ICC contends VHP members have committed "extremist vigilante attacks" against religious minorities accused of non-Hindu practices such as using cows for milk, beef, and leather. ICC also alleges Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi



has condoned the violence as a member of VHP's parent organization, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The U.S. arm of RSS is among World Hindu Congress organizers, according to the event's website.

"The radical organizations behind the event represent a direct threat to the values that the United States and much of the world hold dear," ICC said. "Their ideological stance directly violates the human rights of all people and it is not in the best interest of any representative, organization, or company to support this event."

"The United States and all who represent and value the freedoms and principles enshrined in the US constitution should raise their voices publicly and call attention to the realities that underpin the World Hindu Congress."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), in its 2018 annual report, spotlighted VHP and other Hindu nationalist groups in India for "violence, intimidation, and harassment" against non-Hindus and Hindu Dalits, and cited governments as supporting the violence.

"Conditions for religious minorities have deteriorated over the last decade due to a multifaceted campaign by Hindu-nationalist groups like Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sangh Parivar, and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) to alienate non-Hindus or lower-caste Hindus," USCIRF said in labeling India a Tier 2 country of particular concern for religious persecution.

"Approximately one-third of state governments enforced anti-conversion and/or anti-cow slaughter laws against non-Hindus, and mobs engaged in violence against Muslims or Dalits whose families have been engaged in the dairy, leather, or beef trades for generations, and against Christians for proselytizing," USCIRF said of India.

Mobs killed at least 10 people in 2017 in efforts to protect cows, USCIRF said.

Religious freedom watchdog Open Doors ranks India as 11th among the top 50 countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian.

# RISE UP!

## COUNTY WIDE REVIVAL

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

**September 26-29**

**@ 6pm**

**Central Hills Baptist Retreat**

**6377 Attala Road 4227**

**West, MS 39192-7754**

For information contact:

**662-739-7292**

Free childcare will be provided.

**Alex McFarland**

Guest Speaker

alexcmcfarland.com

## LOTTERY

cont. from p. 1

the Legislature, was short-lived. Held over on a motion to reconsider, the same bill sailed to victory the next day when 13 representatives changed their votes from "nay" to "yea" in favor of the lottery.

"That's like the football team that loses the coin toss at the beginning of the game announcing they don't like the outcome of the toss and want to do it over until they win," said Kenny Digby, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"The lottery bill failed. It makes no sense for the leadership of our legislature to allow the identical lottery bill that failed to be re-voted until it passes."

The representatives who flipped their votes overnight, enabling the lottery to pass, were:

- Ed Blackmon Jr., Canton (Dist. 57).
- Kevin Ford, Vicksburg, (Dist. 54).
- Debra Gibbs, Jackson (Dist. 72).
- Gregory Holloway Sr., Hazlehurst (Dist. 76).
- Joey Hood, Ackerman (Dist. 35).
- Kevin Horan, Grenada (Dist. 34).
- Chris Johnson, Hattiesburg (Dist. 87).
- Robert Johnson III, Natchez (Dist. 94).
- Kabir Karriem, Columbus (Dist. 41).
- Doug McLeod, Lucedale (Dist. 107).

"The lottery bill failed. It makes no sense for the leadership of our legislature to allow the identical lottery bill that failed to be re-voted until it passes."

**Kenny Digby**

**executive director  
of the Christian Action  
Commission**

- Jody Stevenson, Ripley (Dist. 4).
  - Cory Wilson, Madison (Dist. 73).
  - Adrienne Wooten, Ridgeland (Dist. 71).
- Two representatives went the opposite way, changing their "yea" vote on the first ballot to "nay" on the re-vote. They were:

- Jeremy Anderson, Escatawpa (Dist. 110).
  - Larry Byrd, Petal (Dist. 104).
- "I believe there are two points that shouldn't be overlooked in this scramble to pass the lottery bill," Digby said. "One, the identical lottery bill,

SB 2001, was voted down and then voted up in less than 24 hours. That could only have been brought about by intense outside pressure. What that pressure or those pressures were, I can't say.

"Two, it was the leadership that allowed SB 2001 to unfairly stay alive after it had been legitimately voted down by a majority of the House."

Speaker of the House Philip Gunn, a member and leader at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, governed the House during the special session and the lottery bill's passage. Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, a United Methodist, was in charge of the Senate.

Both have said in the past that they personally opposed a state lottery. Prior to the special session, however, the pair indicated they intended to allow the legislative process in their respective chambers to proceed when it came to consideration of the lottery by legislators.

Vote rosters from the Mississippi Legislature are notoriously unreliable because legislators are allowed to change their votes after a bill has passed or failed.

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

WOG, WMDBCM, WM QBG HVQBKUQG

BT GLHE BQM GLHQV, GLUG BQM IUX

HE ZHGL GLM DBKI UE U GLBOEUQI

XMUKE, UQI U GLBOEUQI XMUKE UE

BQM IUX.

*Clue: K = R*

*Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezra 7:26*

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

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## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## True Life • Galatians 3:1-14

**C'MON MAN!** is a segment on ESPN. The commentator says, "Come on man! How could you do something like that?" If Paul were writing today, this would be one of his favorite phrases. In chapter 3, Paul continues his message to the churches of Galatia. He wanted them to understand that the Judaizers had twisted Christ's message of salvation from justification through faith alone to Christ plus the Law. In verse 1, Paul writes, "You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?" Today, he would say, "C'mon Galatians! How can you fall for these lies when you have been taught the truth?"

Paul used strong words because the Galatians were believing lies. When he called the Galatians foolish, Paul did not use the Greek word *moros* which refers to being morally or mentally deficient. Instead, Paul used the ancient Greek word *anoetos*, which had the idea of someone who can think through a concept but chooses instead to accept the concept without thought. Instead of considering the teachings of Paul, the Galatians were choosing to believe the Judaizers' false doctrine. So clouded and unbiblical were their thoughts that Paul said the Galatians seemed to be bewitched.

Have you ever heard the old people say, "Stay away from that person because he's got the evil eye"? The connotation is that the person can bewitch you if you look into his eyes. The ancient Greeks held a similar belief. They were afraid of the idea that a spell could be cast by an evil eye. A friend of mine writes the following: "The evil eye was thought to work in the way a serpent

could hypnotize its prey with its eyes. Once the victim looked into the evil eye, a spell could be cast. Therefore,

the way to overcome the evil eye was simply not to look at it. In using this phrasing and the word picture of bewitched, Paul encouraged the Galatians to keep their eyes always and steadfastly upon Jesus." Paul's words speak to us as well, reminding us to also keep our eyes focused on Jesus.

When Paul wrote about Jesus Christ being publicly portrayed as crucified before their eyes, he was not invoking

a memory of an event the Galatians had witnessed. The Galatians did not witness Jesus' death on the cross. Instead, Paul was saying that he had been so clear in his teaching about Jesus' death that it was like he had left giant billboards for them to see. When the Galatians chose to ignore the billboards of Jesus' crucifixion for their salvation, they were saying that His work on the cross was in-

sufficient. As a result, Paul challenged the Galatians to reflect on their own salvation experiences, asking them if they received salvation and the

Holy Spirit through the law or through the gospel.

Folks, let's be honest. Paul is also writing this important message to us — the churches in Mississippi. He's crying out to us saying, "C'mon Mississippians! How can you fall for these lies when you have been taught the truth?" We have the Truth. His name is Jesus. We encounter Him through His Living Word (the Bible) that provides the pic-

ture of Jesus' work on the cross painted vividly before us. And yet, there are times when we choose to believe unbiblical ideas. Paul's words remind us that the transforming presence and work of the Holy Spirit in believers serves as evidence for justification by faith and the inability of human effort to save. Only people who come to God in faith (not works) are justified. Trusting in the law and our own goodness brings judgment; but trusting in Jesus brings redemption. There is absolutely nothing you or I can do to earn our salvation. Christ provided redemption through His work on the cross, and the only way to be redeemed from this sin-sick world is by faith. Let's not be like the Judaizers and add anything to our justification by faith.

My friend sums it all up like this, "It is wonderful to have a soft heart before God. But some people have softer heads. Their minds are too accommodating to unbiblical ideas and they don't think things through to see if they really are true or not according to the Bible." My response to them is **C'MON MAN!**

McGraw is a NAMB-endorsed chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary and member of Woodville Church, Woodville.



## Explore the Bible

with Liz McGraw

## Gracious Hospitality • 1 Peter 4:7-11

We are known in the south for our hospitality. Yet, southern geniality is not the same as biblical hospitality, demanded in our text for this week's lesson. 1 Peter 4:7-11 reads, "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging." (KJV). While southern hospitality means to be friendly, cheerful, or affable, the New Testament word is derived from the Greek word for brotherly love. Far more than civility, this verse demands that we treat fellow believers like family, as in the family of God.

The Apostle Peter wrote that the end of all things is at hand. Whether collectively at the Great White Throne of Judgment, or as we each die individually, we will all stand before the Father one day, and every knee shall bow to Jesus. The text says that we should, "therefore, be sober, prayerful, loving, and hospitable to one another." Whenever that Bible reads, "therefore," you look a few verses before to see what the "therefore" is there for. Peter reminded his readers that they too were once lost and given to fleshly drives. Since they had been saved, Peter wrote, lost people think it strange that those believ-

ers did not continue to partake in their sins. This text teaches us how believers should behave.

1 Peter 4: 9 demands that we, "Use hospitality one to another without grudging." The world is watching how we treat one another. Since this word is based on a Greek word for love, treating one another in a godly manner demonstrates our love for Christ and our love for one another. In my forty-two years

as a pastor, I have never been treated better than by church members, and I have never been treated worse than by church members.

Remember, lost people, other Christians, and, more importantly, our Father view how we behave towards each other.

While correct beliefs are vital to our faith, the Bible teaches much about behavior as the proof of our beliefs. "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness," Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:5, Galatians 3:6, and James 2:23, (KJV). These verses teach that

Abraham proved his belief in God by his actions. Today, we prove we love Jesus by how we treat His followers. This proof is contrasted with lost people's behavior in Titus 3:3, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another," (KJV).

We can have the right doctrines and still not represent Jesus to the lost if

we mistreat each other. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," John 13:35.

(KJV). Our graciousness and hospitality to those outside our circle of friends attracts people to the gospel we profess. Before Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313 A.D., Christian churches were not allowed to own property, so they had no church buildings to impress their pagan neighbors. Many of them met in the Catacombs for privacy, which certainly would not meet today's standards. Yet, their genuine faith in

the Savior, demonstrated by their treatment of each other, was used by God to transform the Roman Empire into the Holy Roman Empire.

1 Peter 4:10-11 adds, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." As born-again followers of Christ, we receive from God what we need to serve Him. As someone said centuries ago, God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called. As this text ended in a doxology of praise to Jesus, may our lives be a constant doxology to Him through our godly behavior.

Remember God watches our behavior. Hebrews 13:2 warns, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." The Greek word *her* for entertain is the same word translated hospitality elsewhere. Let us be hospitable, for the world is watching, as is the Father.

Henson is a member of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon.



## Bible Studies for Life

with Rick Henson

## TUITION

cont. from p. 1

system for academic, athletic, and extracurricular awards.

While cuts are being made

to tuition, university officials said there will be no cuts in programs or services provided to students, and no reduction in faculty or staff.

Leaders at the university be-

lieve lowering tuition to levels competitive with Kentucky's state-funded universities will result in a major increase in enrollment to offset the reduced tuition.

Currently, 82% of Cumber-

lands students come from Appalachia, with 53% from Kentucky. The university counts 10,000 students in undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs.

Founded in 1888 by a group of Baptist ministers as the Williamsburg Institute, the school became Cumberland College in 1913 and the University of the Cumberlands in 2006.

# Kelley clarifies his observations from chapel sermon

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)** — Chuck Kelley's recent chapel sermon on "the Baptist blues" was not an attack against anyone in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the president of New Orleans Seminary told Baptist Press, but an attempt to foster unity by getting conversation on the table.

"If people are unaware of the simmering divisions in our convention, we're never going to be able to fix them. The reality is they are there. I think not talking [through] our feelings about the convention has made some of the divisions deeper," Kelley stressed.

Kelley's chapel sermon has garnered nearly 3,700 views on New Orleans Seminary's YouTube channel and has been the subject of blogs and social media posts.

In the sermon, Kelley read an extended entry from his journal on the SBC, recounting circumstances that have led "so many people" to ask, "What in the world is going on with the Southern Baptist Convention?" and state to Kelley, "I don't even recognize the Southern Baptist Convention anymore."

Kelley's message noted "a confluence of unprecedented circumstances" that have given rise to "the Baptist blues" among some Southern Baptists. Among them:

■ "At a crucial time" for the International Mission Board following a reduction of 1,132 missionaries and stateside staff in 2016, the board's "future is unclear" with the announced departure of President David Platt — "not a position that fuels the passion that has always drawn and held Southern Baptists together."

■ Amid a 17-year decline in baptisms, the SBC "finally approved an evangelistic task force" in 2017 "to make recommendations on how to approach this dilemma... Many Southern Baptists wondered what was wrong with the soul of the convention if we went that long with that kind of decline without re-

sponding with major initiatives to reach more people for Christ."

■ For most of the past decade, declines in church membership, worship attendance, and small group attendance have evidenced churches "struggling on an unprecedented scale."

■ Within the past six months, employees at four SBC entities have resigned "due to moral indiscretions."

■ The #MeToo movement's "focus on sexual abuse became a dominant national conversation and... it became a dominant conversation in the SBC as well, leading to the biggest mess the SBC has seen in a very long time: the internal controversy at Southwestern Seminary."

"How big a mess was it?" Kelley asked. "It included the executive committee of an entity overturning a decision by the SBC-elected full board of that entity just days after that board met. It resulted in retirement of one of the most influential leaders in the history of the SBC" — a reference to former Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson, Kelley's brother-in-law.

■ "The increasing tensions over the advance of Calvinism in the SBC bubbled over a bit in the SBC presidential election at that Dallas convention. Although neither nominee for the presidency promoted the election as such, the election became in the eyes of many a choice between younger Reformed leadership or older traditional Baptist leadership."

In the June election, North Carolina pastor J.D. Greear defeated former Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill.

That confluence of circumstances led "many people" to say, "I don't know if I want to be a part of the Southern Baptist Convention as it is shaping up right now," Kelley said in the sermon.

He countered such negativity by stating, "There has never been a more important time for us to come together as the body of Christ, working on the Great Commission together."

## Views on Prosperity

Among American churchgoers

Agree Disagree Not sure

To receive material blessings from God, I have to do something for God.



My church teaches that if I give more money to my church and charities, God will bless me in return.



God wants me to prosper financially.



Note: May not equal 100% due to rounding.

LifeWay

LifeWay Research.com

## LifeWay Research: Beware 'prosperity gospel' mindset

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — For some Americans, dropping a check into the offering plate at church may seem a bit like having a Discover Card. Both offer a cash-back bonus.

About a third of Protestant churchgoers say their congregation teaches that God will bless them if they donate money. Two-thirds say God wants them to prosper. One in four say they have to do something for God to receive material blessings in return.

Those are among the key findings of a new study on so-called "prosperity gospel" beliefs from a LifeWay Research study conducted Aug. 22–30, 2017.

LifeWay Research is the arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville that seeks to assist and equip church leaders with insight and advice that will lead to greater levels of church health and effectiveness, according to the organization's web site.

For the study, LifeWay Research surveyed 1,010 Americans who attend a Protestant or non-denominational church at least once a month.

Researchers found more than a few churchgoers believe giving to God leads to financial rewards, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. "A significant group of churches seem to teach that donations trigger a financial response from God."

### Controversial topic

The belief that God gives financial rewards in exchange for offerings is a central part of the so-called prosperity gospel, which offers a "direct path to the good life," as Duke University professor Kate Bowler puts it.

That belief is both controversial and fairly commonplace.

LifeWay Research found 38% of Protestant churchgoers agree with the statement, "My church teaches that if I give more money to my church and charities, God will bless me in return."

Fifty-seven percent disagree, including 40% who strongly disagree. Five percent are not sure.

Pentecostal and Assemblies of God churchgoers are most likely to agree (53%). Churchgoers with evangelical beliefs are more likely to agree (41%) than those without evangelical beliefs (35%).

African-American (51%) and Hispanic churchgoers (43%) are more likely to agree than white churchgoers (32%).

Even if they don't see a direct link between offerings and blessings, many churchgoers say God wants them to do well.

Sixty-nine percent agree with the statement, "God wants me to prosper financially." Twenty percent disagree. Ten percent are not sure.

The more people go to church, the more likely they are to think God wants them to do well. Among those who attend at least once a week, 71% say God wants them to prosper financially. That drops to 56% for those who go to church once or twice a month.

Churchgoers who have evangelical beliefs are more likely to agree God wants them to prosper (75%) than those without evangelical beliefs (63%). Pentecostal and Assemblies of God (80%), Baptist (74%), non-denominational (67%) and Methodist churchgoers (65%) are among the most likely to agree.

Lutherans, however, are more skeptical, with 49% per-

cent saying God wants them to prosper financially.

### Actions and blessings

Some churchgoers draw a direct tie from their actions to God's blessings. Twenty-six percent agree with the statement: "To receive material blessings from God, I have to do something for God." Seventy percent disagree. Five percent are not sure.

Southerners are more likely to agree (30%) than those who live in the Midwest (20%) or West (19%). African-American (44%) and Hispanic (34%) churchgoers are more likely to agree than white churchgoers (17%) or those from other ethnic groups (16%).

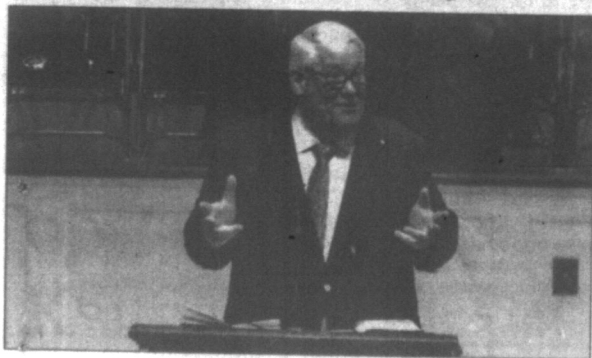
Pentecostal/Assemblies of God churchgoers (34%), Methodists (29%) and Baptists (28%) are more likely to say they have to do something for God to get a material reward than other denominations. Lutherans (12%) are less likely.

### Evangelicals vulnerable

A previous LifeWay Research study on American theological views found similar results. In that study, one in four Americans said they believe God will always reward true faith with material blessings.

Americans who hold evangelical beliefs were most likely to agree with that statement, leading McConnell to observe that evangelicals appear to be the most eager to embrace a link between God's financial blessings and their actions.

A number of high-profile evangelical leaders have condemned the prosperity gospel, but more than a few people in the pews have embraced it.



KELLEY